

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 11, 16, 18, 19, and 25.

Please add new claims 29-46.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 7, 13, 15, 21, 24, and 26 as follows:

1. **(Currently amended)** A non-human transgenic animal organism having a transgene integrated into the genome of the animal and also having a tet operator-linked gene of interest in the genome of the animal, wherein:

the transgene comprises a transcriptional regulatory element functional in cells of the animal operatively linked to comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding a fusion protein which inhibits transcription in eukaryotic cells,

the fusion protein comprising a first polypeptide which is a Tet repressor or mutated Tet repressor that binds to a tet operator sequence, operatively linked to a heterologous second polypeptide which inhibits transcription in eukaryotic cells,

wherein the transgene is expressed in cells of the animal at a level sufficient to produce amounts of the fusion protein that are sufficient to inhibit transcription of the tet operator-linked gene, wherein the level of transcription of the tet operator-linked gene is less than the level of transcription prior to regulation by the fusion protein.

2. **(Currently amended)** The animal organism of claim 1, wherein the first polypeptide of the fusion protein is a Tet repressor that binds to tet operator sequences in the absence but not the presence of tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue.

3. **Canceled.**

4. **(Currently amended)** The animal of claim any one of claims 2, 15, or 27, wherein the first polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 17.

5. **(Previously presented)** The animal of claim 1, wherein the first polypeptide of the fusion protein is a mutated Tet repressor that binds to tet operator sequences in the presence but not the absence of tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue.

6. **Canceled.**

7. **(Previously presented)** The animal of claims 5 or 28, wherein the mutated Tet repressor has at least one amino acid substitution compared to a wild-type Tet repressor.

8. **(Currently amended)** The animal of claim 7, wherein the mutated Tet repressor has an amino acid substitution at least one amino acid position corresponding to an amino acid position selected from the group consisting of position 71, position 95, position 101 and position 102 of a wild-type Tn10-derived Tet repressor amino acid sequence.

9. **(Previously presented)** The animal of claim 8, wherein the mutated Tet repressor comprises an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 19.

10. **(Currently amended)** The animal of any one of claims 1, ~~or 27, or 28,~~ wherein the second polypeptide comprises a transcription silencer domain of a protein selected from the group consisting of v-erbA, the Drosophila Krueppel protein, the retinoic acid receptor alpha, the thyroid hormone receptor alpha, the yeast Ssn6/Tup1 protein complex, the Drosophila protein even-skipped, SIR1, NeP1, the Drosophila dorsal protein, TSF3, SFI, the Drosophila hunchback protein, the Drosophila knirps protein, WT1, Oct-2.1, the Drosophila engrailed protein, E4BP4 and ZF5.

11. **Canceled**

12. **Canceled**

13. **(Currently amended)** The animal of any of claims 1, ~~15~~, 27, and 28, which is selected from a group consisting of a cow, a goat, a sheep, a mouse, a monkey, a dog, a cat, a rabbit, a rat, and a pig.

14. **Canceled**

15. **(Currently amended)** The A non-human transgenic animal of claim 1, having a transgene comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding a fusion protein which inhibits transcription in eukaryotic cells, the fusion protein comprising a first polypeptide which is a Tet repressor or a mutated Tet repressor that binds to a tet operator

~~sequence, operatively linked to a heterologous second polypeptide which inhibits transcription in eukaryotic cells~~, wherein the transgene is integrated at a predetermined location within a chromosome within cells of the animal.

16-25. **Canceled.**

26. **(Currently amended)** A method for modulating transcription of the *tet operator-linked gene* ~~second transgene~~ in the transgenic animal of any one of claims 1, 27, and 28 ~~claim 25~~, comprising administering tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue to the animal.

27. **(Currently amended)** A non-human transgenic animal having a transgene integrated into the genome of the animal and also having a *tet* operator-linked gene in the genome of the animal, wherein:

the transgene comprises a transcriptional regulatory element functional in cells of the animal operatively linked to a polynucleotide sequence encoding a fusion protein which inhibits transcription of said *tet* operator linked gene,

said fusion protein comprises a first polypeptide that is a Tet repressor operably linked to a heterologous second polypeptide which inhibits transcription of said *tet* operator-linked gene in eukaryotic ~~eucaryotic~~ cells,

said *tet* operator-linked gene is expressed at detectable levels ~~confers a detectable and functional phenotype on the animal when expressed in cells of the animal in the presence of tetracycline or an analogue thereof~~,

said transgene is expressed in cells of the animal at a level sufficient to produce amounts of said fusion protein that are sufficient to inhibit transcription of the *tet* operator-linked gene; and

in the absence of tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue in the animal, said fusion protein binds to the *tet* operator-linked gene and inhibits transcription of the *tet* operator linked gene, wherein the level of expression of the *tet* operator-linked gene can be upregulated by administering tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue to the animal.

28. **(Currently amended)** A non-human transgenic animal having a transgene integrated into the genome of the animal and also having a *tet* operator-linked gene in the genome of the animal, wherein:

the transgene comprises a transcriptional regulatory element functional in cells of the animal operatively linked to a polynucleotide sequence encoding a fusion protein which inhibits transcription of said *tet* operator linked gene,

said fusion protein comprises a first polypeptide that is a mutated Tet repressor that binds to *tet* operator sequences in the presence, but not the absence, of tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue, operably linked to a heterologous second polypeptide which inhibits transcription of said *tet* operator-linked gene in eukaryotic eucaryotic cells,

said *tet* operator-linked gene is expressed at detectable levels confers a detectable and functional phenotype on the animal when expressed in cells of the animal in the absence of tetracycline or an analogue thereof,

said transgene is expressed in cells of the animal at a level sufficient to produce amounts of said fusion protein that are sufficient to inhibit transcription of the *tet* operator-linked gene; and

in the presence of tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue in the animal, said fusion protein binds to the *tet* operator-linked gene and inhibits transcription of the *tet* operator linked gene, wherein the level of expression of the *tet* operator-linked gene can be upregulated by depleting tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue from the animal.

29. **(New)** The animal of claim 1, wherein expression of the transgene is regulated by at least one *tet* operator sequence.

30. **(New)** The animal of claim 1, wherein expression of the transgene is regulated by at least one tissue-specific regulatory element.

31. **(New)** The animal of claim 1, wherein the *tet* operator-linked gene is a second transgene comprising a gene of interest operably linked to at least one *tet* operator sequence.

32. **(New)** The animal of claim 31, wherein the at least one *tet* operator sequence is operatively linked upstream of the second transgene.

33. **(New)** The animal of claim 31, wherein the at least one *tet* operator sequence is operatively linked downstream of the second transgene.

34. (New) The animal of claim 1, wherein the *tet* operator-linked gene is an endogenous gene that has been operatively linked to at least one *tet* operator sequence.

35. (New) A transgenic non-human animal having a transgene integrated into the genome of the animal, wherein:

the transgene comprises a transcriptional regulatory element functional in cells of the animal operatively linked to a polynucleotide sequence encoding a fusion protein which inhibits transcription of a *tet* operator linked gene,

the fusion protein comprising a first polypeptide that is a Tet repressor or a mutated Tet repressor that binds to a *tet* operator sequence, operatively linked to a second polypeptide which inhibits transcription in eukaryotic cells, and

said fusion protein is expressed in cells of the animal.

36. (New) The animal of claim 35, wherein the first polypeptide of the fusion protein binds to *tet* operator sequences in the absence but not the presence of tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue.

37. (New) The animal of claim 36, wherein the first polypeptide is a Tet repressor.

38. (New) The animal of claim 36, wherein the first polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 17.

39. (New) The animal of claim 35, wherein the first polypeptide of the fusion protein binds to *tet* operator sequences in the presence but not the absence of tetracycline or a tetracycline analogue.

40. (New) The animal of claim 39, wherein the first polypeptide is a mutated Tet repressor.

41. (New) The animal of claim 40, wherein the mutated Tet repressor has at least one amino acid substitution compared to a wild-type Tet repressor.

42. (New) The animal of claim 40, wherein the mutated Tet repressor has an amino acid substitution at at least one amino acid position corresponding to an amino acid position selected from the group consisting of position 71, position 95, position 101 and position 102 of a wild-type Tn10-derived Tet repressor amino acid sequence.

43. (New) The animal of claim 40, wherein the mutated Tet repressor comprises an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 19.

44. (New) The animal of claim 35, wherein the second polypeptide comprises a transcription silencer domain of a protein selected from the group consisting of v-erbA, the Drosophila Krueppel protein, the retinoic acid receptor alpha, the thyroid hormone receptor alpha, the yeast Ssn6/Tup1 protein complex, the Drosophila protein even-skipped, SIR1, NeP1, the Drosophila dorsal protein, TSF3, SFI, the Drosophila hunchback protein, the Drosophila knirps protein, WT1, Oct-2.1, the Drosophila engrailed protein, E4BP4 and ZF5.

45. (New) The animal of claim 35, wherein the *tet* operator-linked gene is a second transgene comprising a gene of interest operably linked to at least one *tet* operator sequence.

46. (New) The animal of claim 35, which is selected from a group consisting of a cow, a goat, a sheep, a mouse, a monkey, a dog, a cat, a rabbit, a rat, and a pig.